<u>Non - Paper</u>

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Re-affirming our steady and defined position that a just and comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution on the borders of 1967, based on International Law, the signed agreements and defined references, which were endorsed by the Road Map, and the Arab peace Initiative which was embodied in UNSC resolution 1515, represents our strategic option, that the State of Palestine will live with its capital East Jerusalem alongside the State of Israel peacefully, to cooperate regionally and to ensure security and development for all.

Emphasizing our commitment to abide by International Law with clear reference to the UN Security Council Resolutions related to the conflict including: 242, 338, which the Oslo Accords specified that the objective of the peace process is to implement these two resolutions, and agreed terms of reference between the two sides including the mutual recognition between the State of Israel and the PLO;

Bearing in mind that both sides have agreed to direct bilateral negotiations, including the Declaration of Principles on interim self-government arrangements concluded on 13 September 1993, which established a framework for the PLO-Israeli relations in the interim period, in which the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank would establish a self-government authority for a period of five years, where a permanent status agreement is to be concluded no later than 1999, leading to a complete end of Israeli occupation that began in 4June 1967.

According to the interim-agreement, neither side should initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit, nor will they take any step on the core issues namely borders, security, water, Jerusalem, prisoners, and refugees, pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations; and reaching a peace treaty;

Reminding, that the Oslo Accords detail mechanisms for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and as stipulated in the Accords, Article V of the Interim Agreement 1995 specified that both parties would enter into a final-status negotiations to negotiate the above final status issues, to settle comprehensively all issues and to sign the peace treaty;

Bearing in mind that the acquisition of territory by force is against international legitimacy, the Israeli government continues to violate the principles of world order and all related UN Charters. Resolutions related to the Palestinian question, the signed agreements, and continues to consolidate

its settlement policies, that aims to destroy the establishment of an independent State of Palestine;

It should be noted here that in the Interim agreement signed in 1995 between the two parties, it was agreed that the Palestinian Authority would have full geographic and security jurisdiction over West Bank and Gaza territory excluding Jerusalem, borders, settlements, and the specified military locations, which would be negotiated upon in the final status negotiations.

In accordance to the Declaration of Principles, we conducted free, democratic, national elections in 1996, 2005 and 2006 for our Legislative Council, and for the presidency in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank including East Jerusalem, as one single geographic territorial unit (agreed-upon territorial link between Gaza and West Bank), we are determined to conduct new elections as an essential requirement to pursue Palestinian unity and state-building with sovereignty; one authority, one law, one legitimate weapon.

In this regard, it must be noted that direct bilateral negotiations with our Israeli counterparts has come a long way especially with the Olmert-Abu Mazen negotiations on the final-status issues. Within this context, we express our readiness to resume direct bilateral negotiations from where we ended.

No one benefits more than Palestinians from reaching a peace treaty and no one stands to lose more in the absence of peace more than Palestinians and for this reason we came a long way in our negotiation with our Israeli counterparts on all permanent status issues as follows:

1. <u>Borders</u>: In reference to UN Resolutions 242 and 338, based on the borders of 4 June 1967, we are ready to engage with minor, mutually-agreed upon, modifications of the border in size and value. And a territorial link between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Taking into consideration the interests of both sides.

2. <u>Security</u>: Taking into consideration the needs, and concern of both sides, we continue committed to bilateral security cooperation. We are ready to have our State with limited arms, and a strong police force to ensure law and order, we are ready to accept a third-party mandated by a UN Security Resolution Council to be in the State of Palestine, to ensure the implementation of the peace agreement on security and borders. We are ready for NATO to lead this third-party of international forces provided that no Israeli military or civilian presence in the State of Palestine. Palestine will have full control and

sovereignty of its air space, maritime and coastal borders, international passages, airports and harbor. It is worth reminding you that we signed 84 security agreements with different states, including the U.S. to fight international terror notwithstanding its source or reasons, and to contribute to world security. We are ready to continue our regional and international cooperation in this field.

3. Jerusalem: As it was stipulated in the Declaration of Principles, Jerusalem is one of the core issues to be negotiated in the final-status and West Jerusalem will be the capital of the State of Israel and East Jerusalem the capital of the State of Palestine. Furthermore, our capital East Jerusalem can be open and we shall guarantee, free access to the holy shrines and full respect to the monotheistic religions.

4. Settlements: These are considered illegal under International Law and against all UN Resolutions including UN Security Council Resolution 2334, 2016. As it is mentioned in the fore, neither party shall take any unilateral step including settlements and annexation to create a de facto reality on the ground.

5. Refugees: It is necessary to find a just and comprehensive solutions to the issue of the refugees, based on the Arab Peace Initiative in 2002, and which stipulated a "just and agreed-upon solution for the refugees, based on UN General Assembly Resolution 194".

6. Water: All issues related to water, surface and ground water including the Jordan River basin, Dead Sea, and water aquifers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be solved on the basis of international law, that will also guarantee our rights on the Mediterranean.

7. Prisoners: Prior to signing the peace treaty, we stress on the principle that all prisoners should be released from the Israeli prisons, including the fourth tranche of pre-Oslo prisoners. As the international community faces COVID-19 challenges, we demanded and demand the immediate release of all political prisoners, and those who are ill, in addition to women, children and elderly in detention, noting that all Palestinian prisoners will be released with no exception upon signature of the peace treaty.

In conclusion, we call upon the international Members of the Quartet to convene an international conference with the attendance of members of the Quartet Plus in order to re-launch the bilateral negotiations based on International Law, agreements signed, and clear terms of reference with a clear time ceiling not to exceed one year, while ensuring that no party takes illegal and unilateral acts such as settlements and annexation.

Hence, if Israel declares the annexation of any part of the Palestinian territory, it would necessarily mean revoking all agreements signed. We herein, declare

clearly, that all our bilateral agreements and understandings with the State of Israel and the US will be null and void. All the final-status issues mentioned here above to reach a historic peace treaty will be off the table if Israel unilaterally annexes any part of the Palestinian Territory.
